

THE G-8 MUSKOKA SUMMIT: FOLLOWING THROUGH ON FOOD SECURITY

For the first time in history, more than one billion people are undernourished. Acknowledging that investment in agricultural development represents the most effective, large scale intervention to promote inclusive economic growth, alleviate hunger, and reduce the vulnerability of small producers to external shocks, leaders at the 2009 L'Aquila G-8 Summit committed to reversing underinvestment in agricultural development and endorsed five key principles that were subsequently adopted at the Rome World Food Security Summit. Now known as the Rome Principles, these points constitute the foundation for collective, global action and for the Obama Administration food security initiative, *Feed the Future*:

1. **Foster strategic coordination.** Development partners commit to coordinating their allocation of resources for agriculture development to maximize their effective and efficient use.
2. **Invest in country-owned plans.** Development partners commit to using credible, country-owned plans to channel assistance to countries.
3. **Strive for a comprehensive approach to food security.** To achieve success, it is important to focus on the full range of issues that affect agricultural development, including increasing agricultural productivity; stimulating post-harvest, private-sector growth; supporting the role of women and families in agriculture; maintaining the natural resource base in the context of the changing climate; expanding knowledge and training; increasing trade flows; and supporting good governance and policy reform.
4. **Sustain improvements in the work of multilateral institutions.** In addition to providing bilateral assistance, development partners will seek to use multilateral institutions and facilities, whenever appropriate; and will work to reform and improve the effectiveness of multilateral institutions and financing mechanisms.
5. **Sustained and Substantial Commitment.** Development partners agree to substantially increase investments in agricultural development, provide resources to multi-year plans and programs in a timely and reliable way, and sustain their commitments to this sector.

The United States believes that meeting the challenge of food insecurity requires a global effort. By the time of the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, donors had committed to invest \$22 billion over the next three years in agricultural development using these five guiding principles. The United States pledged to provide at least \$3.5 billion over three years, exclusive of food aid. At the Muskoka G-8 Summit, President Obama reiterated the strong commitment of the United States to meet our L'Aquila pledges and applauded the significant progress that has been made to implement this initiative this past year:

Country-Led Investment Meetings: The Rome Principles represent an improved business model that emphasizes a country-led approach to development. Consistent with the Rome Principles, developing countries have initiated inclusive multi-stakeholder processes to develop comprehensive national agricultural and food security strategies and investment plans. Rwanda, Haiti, Bangladesh, Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo have already submitted their national agricultural and food security investment plans to rigorous outside review and analysis. Additionally, a regional plan prepared by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has been reviewed that will enable its members

to expand and access regional agricultural markets. Importantly, these plans represent a significant increase in investment in agriculture and rural development by developing countries themselves.

The United States and other L'Aquila partners have reviewed these investment plans, with more expected in the months ahead. At the high-level meetings held by developing countries to present their plans, the United States stated its intention, subject to congressional appropriations on supplemental and 2011 budget amounts, to provide \$72 million against the Rwandan investment plan, a total of \$160 million against a number of West African investment plans, over \$100 million against the Haitian investment plan, and \$15 million against the Bangladeshi investment plan. The United States intends to invest additional resources in these and other comprehensive national agriculture and food security investment plans in outlying fiscal years, and is encouraging other development partners to similarly state their intentions through the processes agreed at high-level investment plan meetings.

Meeting L'Aquila Funding Commitments: The United States has already allocated \$812 million of the \$3.5 billion pledged at L'Aquila. This figure includes investments in comprehensive national agriculture and food security plans and in agricultural research and development.

Launch of a Multilateral Fund: Leaders at the Pittsburgh G-20 Summit called on the World Bank to work with interested donors to develop a multilateral trust fund to scale-up agricultural assistance to low-income countries. As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to a multilateral approach to meeting global challenges, the United States has worked with the G-20, the World Bank and other multilateral organizations to establish this innovative new fund to help millions of poor farmers grow more and earn more so they can lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Hosted at the World Bank, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program has rapidly become operational, mobilizing commitments of nearly \$900 million and working to mobilize significantly more. The United States has pledged \$475 million to the Fund. Other commitments include Canada (\$230 million), Spain (\$95 million), South Korea (\$50 million) and the Gates Foundation (\$30 million). Of these amounts, \$402 million has already been deposited in the trust fund, including \$67 million from the United States.

Less than a year since the G-20 called for a multilateral fund, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program has made its first grants totaling \$224 million to five low income countries: Bangladesh, Rwanda, Haiti, Togo and Sierra Leone. These first grants are expected to benefit over two million people in rural areas, demonstrating the resolve of the international community to forge a strong, swift and coordinated response against global food insecurity.

Consistent with an approach that values partnership to meet shared challenges, the Fund's main decision making body includes an equal number of developing countries and donors as voting members. Developing countries have played a central role in the design of the Fund, and the steering committee includes three seats for civil society organizations.

Recommitment to Investing in Research and Development: Growing global food demand and falling global growth yields requires that we increase support for research to produce more

food on less land, with less water, and under less certain climate conditions; and that we make these investments in low-income, food insecure countries. That is why the United States has announced a plan that it intends to allocate about ten percent of the financial resources for agriculture and food security to research programs in 2011. This includes a doubling of funding for global research over base levels from two years ago plus additional agricultural resources in each of the individual countries to support national and regional research and extension systems, and the increased leadership of women in these systems.

The United States will prioritize agricultural productivity and focus investments on the specific production systems and research breakthroughs that can raise incomes for farmers and generate agricultural growth across Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world. Examples of these breakthroughs are drought tolerant maize seed in East Africa, more resilient rice strains in South and Southeast Asia, and livestock vaccines. Further, the United States will use a milestones-and-outcome-based funding approach that allows scaled-up support for real technologies that deliver real results in a timely way. Integral to our efforts is the strong support of the G-8 for reform of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and financial support for its focus on increasing the productivity of staple food crops.

Promoting the Role of the Private Sector: Sustained investment and agricultural growth in developing countries can only be achieved with strong private sector engagement. The United States is working with private sector forums like the Institute for Global Development, the World Economic Forum, the Clinton Global Initiative, and others to engage private sector companies, strengthen country-led agricultural processes and policies, and to create investment opportunities. An example of this is an ongoing effort with the World Economic Forum and eight major companies to jointly develop agribusiness and infrastructure along the southern trade corridor of Tanzania, which can serve as a model for similar development along other agricultural trade corridors. The United States is also working closely with universities and non-governmental organizations as part of its private sector engagement.

The Work of International Organizations: With others, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the U.N. World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Bank and have been invaluable partners in advancing country-led processes; both by helping countries to develop their national agricultural strategies and investment plans, and by sending senior level delegations to early country planning programs to generate momentum for the initiative.